

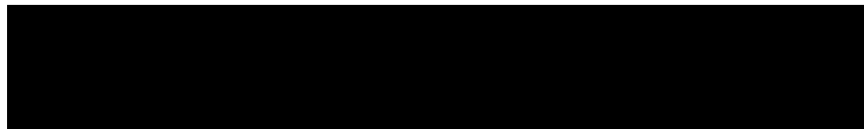
9 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Report on Attendance at the Annual Meeting of the
Association of American Geographers, 18-22 August 19581. Purpose and Personnel of Trip

a. Twenty-eight GRA personnel attended the Santa Monica Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, at which numerous papers on a wide variety of subjects were delivered by geographers from all parts of the country. In order to keep abreast of current developments in geography, each of the geographers attended those meetings at which papers within his fields of interest were delivered.

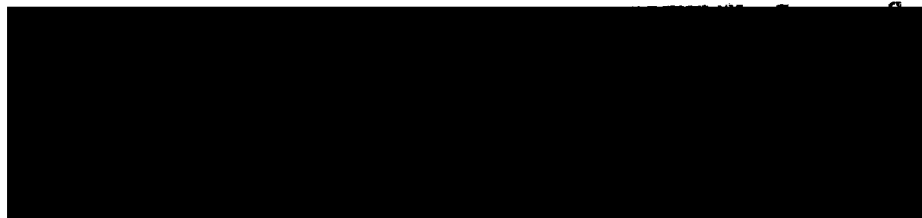
b. Seven members of the group attended the meetings on official travel orders, using government-provided aircraft for travel:



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c. Two others,  were sponsored but traveled by POA. 25X1A9a

d. Thirteen others attended on normal duty status, using government-provided aircraft for travel:



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e. Six GRA personnel attended on normal duty status, traveling at their own expense:



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f. This report summarizes the activities of all of the above-mentioned personnel.

25X1A9a g. In addition, three members of the Economic Area -- 25X1A9a (who attended the AAG meetings) -- were also passengers on the government-provided aircraft.

2. Activities

a. GRA personnel attended both regional sessions related to their respective fields of interest and general sessions at which topical discussions of interest to the Geographic Area were discussed. The sessions included from one to seven papers each. Papers were presented on Antarctica, Europe and the USSR, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and Latin America. The topical sessions attended by various staff members included those on Political Geography, Photo Interpretation, Cartography, Cultural Geography, Plant Geography, Urban Geography, Geomorphology and Physical Geography, Minerals and Energy, and the Content and Scope of Geography. Of particular value to GRA personnel were the panel sessions in which several outstanding geographers contributed to a discussion of a single topic of wide general interest.

b. The group participated in two all-day field trips -- the first was an urban and industrial reconnaissance of the Los Angeles area, and the second an agricultural-geographic survey of Ventura County.

c. The personnel who flew from Washington to Los Angeles and back by government-provided aircraft consider the flights among the most valuable features of the entire trip. From the low-flying plane, changing patterns of physiography, vegetation, and land use emerged with great clarity. For those who have occasion to use intelligence based on airplane flights, the flight provided a useful guide as to which types of information are reliable and which must be used with caution.

3. Difficulties

None.

4. Commitments

None.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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5. Recommendations

a. Because of the variety of the papers presented at the annual meetings, the general excellence of their content, the thought-provoking character of the panel discussions, the many examples of new techniques and methodology represented, and the opportunities to meet geographers who had traveled recently in foreign areas of significance to the Agency, the personnel who attended the AAG meetings unanimously recommend that as many Area geographers as possible be encouraged to attend future meetings of the AAG.

b. To provide the opportunity for attendance at future AAG meetings, subsidies should be given in the form of travel status, transportation (as was the case this year), or in any other way that may seem feasible.

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Distribution:

- 2 - AD/AR
- 1 - SA/A
- 25 - 1 copy to each USA participant
- 2 - D/OS
- ✓ 2 - CA/O

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OS: D/OS: [redacted] 101/2305 (8 Sep 58)
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